

ALTERNATIVE J - EAST SIDE CONVEYANCE

Reduce Conflicts in the System

A solution will reduce major conflicts among beneficial users of water. A solution should:

- significantly reduce each of the four major conflicts which have been identified for the Bay-Delta system. Most of the problems in the Bay-Delta are embodied in one or more of these conflicts. They are:
 - fisheries and diversions - medium/high - export pumping from the South Delta is eliminated. Uncertainty of the screening technology for this size down rates this alternative. Multiple smaller diversions would improve the rating.
 - habitat and land use/flood protection - medium, modest vulnerability improvements are included along with extensive habitat improvements. The vulnerability of export supplies to catastrophic interruption is substantially reduced.
 - water supply availability and beneficial uses - medium/high, this alternative eliminates in-Delta conveyance constraints but is discounted due to possible adverse impacts on in-Delta water users. Lack of storage also reduces the rating.
 - water quality and land use - medium, substantial improvement in export water quality since export diversion is moved from the South Delta. However, there may be adverse effects on in-Delta water users.

MEDIUM/HIGH

Equitable

An equitable solution will focus on solving problems in all problem areas. Improvement for some problems will not be made without corresponding improvements for other problems.

Equitable considerations include:

- satisfy some portion of each of the 4 primary and 14 secondary objectives which have been identified for the program - High, addresses some portion of all objectives.
- provide a reasonable balance of reliability weighted improvements for the four resource

areas. Balance does not necessarily require an equal level of improvement for each resource areas (e.g. water exporters might be willing to accept less improvement in water supply reliability if water quality is improved). - **Medium/High, although all resource areas are substantially benefited, this alternative is discounted due to possible impacts on in-Delta water users.**

- result in costs allocated to the economic users of water based on the benefits they receive from the solution. However, there is no obligation to provide benefits to those unwilling to contribute towards the solution - **Unable to consider this factor in the absence of a financing plan.**

- result in net benefits and burdens balanced across stakeholder groups - **Medium/High, benefits and burdens are quantifiable and balanced.**

MEDIUM/HIGH

Affordable

An affordable solution will be one that can be implemented and maintained within the foreseeable resources of the Program and stakeholders. An affordable solution should:

- have identifiable revenue and financing provisions which are adequate for implementation and continued maintenance of the solution - **Unable to consider this factor in the absence of a financing plan.**

- be among the least expensive solutions, for a given level of implementation, which achieve the Program objectives - **High/Medium, this alternative is perceived to offer relatively high benefits relative to cost compared to other isolated facility options.**

- minimize the negative effects on the credit rating of those funding the solution - **Unable to consider this factor in the absence of a financing plan.**

HIGH/MEDIUM

Durable

A durable solution will have political and economic staying power and will sustain the resources it was designed to protect and enhance. A durable solution should:

- be adaptive, flexible to changing needs and potential future conditions, and able to address biological uncertainty to sustain the resources it was designed to protect and enhance - **Medium/Low**, the operation of this alternative could be changed as more becomes known. Limited by its single focused solution.
- provide ecosystem improvement using a variety of mechanisms to better face biological uncertainty rather than relying on any single theory of ecosystem improvement - **High/Medium**, this alternative relies on a combination of extensive habitat improvement both in the Delta and upstream, along with export diversion relocation and reoperation. Lacks the operational flexibility provided by storage.
- accommodate hydrological and other physical uncertainties (e.g. increased storage would hedge against the unknown, or consideration of impacts of potentially higher sea levels on the various alternatives could strengthen durability) - **Medium/High**, relocation of export water supplies outside the Delta offers durability in this sense. This alternative is discounted because the large isolated facility may result in unforeseen adverse impacts. Lacks the operational flexibility provided by storage
- have adequate legal, operational, or physical provisions to ensure that objectives continue to be met in an equitable way for the long term - **Low/Medium**, once the very costly facilities are constructed, there may be pressure to operate them in a less than optimum manner.
- include a financial plan which has provisions to ensure that the solution will be implemented as intended, while providing flexibility to alter revenues to respond to changing needs - **High/Medium**, because water diverted to the new conveyance is readily quantifiable and accountable. Long-term contracts for water supply can be developed based on deliveries.

MEDIUM

Implementable

An implementable solution will have broad public acceptance, legal feasibility and will be timely and relatively simple to implement compared to other alternatives. An implementable solution should:

- have legal or practical precedents or have a clearly identified series of reasonable steps which could be taken to enable implementation - **Medium/Low**, relative to the other alternatives, development of new conveyance and habitat restoration projects is reasonably straightforward, requiring Section 404, NEPA, and CEQA compliance.

The practical precedent for an large isolated facility has not been supported in the past.

- have institutional feasibility - High, this alternative could be implemented by and within existing institutional authorities. Some contractual or joint powers authorities might be desirable to implement the new conveyance.
- include as few major legal and institutional changes as necessary while meeting Program objectives - Medium, this alternative could be implemented by and within existing institutional authorities. Some contractual or joint powers authorities might be desirable to implement the new conveyance. Would need operational guarantees,
- have broad acceptance across the various geographic areas and interest groups as well as the state as a whole - Low/Medium, discounted because of opposition of some groups to structural solutions, particularly one on this scale. Also, depending on the specific conveyance location, this alternative may face significant local or regional opposition. Central and South Delta water users may oppose an isolated facility. There would be area of origin concerns.

MEDIUM

No Significant Redirected Impacts

A solution will not solve problems in the Bay-Delta system by redirecting significant negative impacts, when viewed in its entirety, in the Bay-Delta or other regions of California. A solution should:

- minimize negative long-term economic impacts at the regional level - High, relatively small amounts of land-use change compared to other alternatives.
- compensate for or mitigate unavoidable negative impacts to the greatest extent practicable - Medium/High, relatively small amounts of land-use change compared to other alternatives. Elimination of through Delta flow would have negative impacts.

HIGH/MEDIUM

POTENTIAL REVISIONS

Revision	Principle Improved	Rationale	Potential Adverse Affects
Provide water service to Central and South Delta water users from the isolated facility	Reduce Conflicts, Implementable.	Provide benefits to in-Delta water users to improve water quality in south and central Delta	Cost
Add south of Delta storage	Reduce Conflicts, Equitable. Affordable. Implementable	Generates water supply benefits and flexibility to meet pumping windows	Site specific impacts, redirected impacts. cost